

SECRET
OCE 5044
P-449

Office Memorandum
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Cover Division/Plans/OSO
FROM : Chief, Contact Division, OO
SUBJECT: Nikolai ABRAMTCHIK, OO/C Cases 4092 and 4916.

DATE: 1 April 1952

1. Attached as enclosure is report of interview between our [] representative and subject, prior to latter's departure for Europe.

ATTACHMENT: As listed above.

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KAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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SECRET**ENCLOSURE 'A'**Re: Last Messages from Mr. A

1. Subject indicated that he will depart for Paris at 5:00 PM, Monday, 31 March, via TWA. He expects to be in Munich about two weeks later.

2. He indicated that he had received "a small signal" indicating that the British are preparing operations directed at the USSR. He will check on this story when he gets to Europe.

3. Subject claimed that he had previous conversation regarding the Nina Steinerich case with you in Washington. You would, therefore, understand the significance of the following remarks. When Hiles contacted Dr. Steinerich, Munich journalistic friend of subject's group, the latter agreed to "play" with her at the suggestion of our friends in Munich. Prior to Nina's arrest, the following incident occurred. Dr. Steinerich met Nina at a cafe. One of our friends accompanied by a Czechoslovak national and member of ASU followed them to the cafe and our friend allegedly pointed to Dr. Steinerich and made some unfavorable comments about the company he keeps. In subject's opinion, Dr. Steinerich was compromised by this totally un-called for behavior on the part of our friend.

4. In this connection, subject has asked us to convey to you the following strong request: Please make sure that Dr. Steinerich will not be called upon to testify at an open trial or at any phase of legal procedure which may become public knowledge. In subject's opinion, Dr. Steinerich had agreed to serve our purpose only with the thought that his part in the case would remain strictly confidential.

5. Subject told us that he discussed the question of Voice of America broadcasts in the Belarusian language with Messrs. [] and []. These gentlemen expressed their interest, their agreement in principle with his aspirations, and their wish ultimately to assist in putting for such a program. They had merely argued against any immediate action because of tactical considerations. Subject meanwhile had a conversation regarding this matter with Mr. Kohler of VOA on 26 March 1952 in which he learned the following.

6. Some two months ago, Kohler proposed to the State Department that a total of twelve languages be added to the existing VOA program to include Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Belarusian, and Asiatic languages such as Arab and Indian dialects. State replied to Kohler that such an ambitious expansion could not be carried out at this time for financial reasons but that a project of adding five languages would receive favorable attention; broadcasts in these additional five languages could be

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started by June, 1952. Kohler replied to State that he would leave the choice of the five languages entirely up to Washington.

7. Subject states that Kohler privately admitted to him that he would give a high priority to Belarusian and would definitely include it among the five languages to be added but that these views had not been communicated to Washington. Subject believes that this was the time for representations on behalf of a Belarusian language program. Among the arguments which could be advanced in favor of including Belarusian one could include the fact that Belarusian was more different from Russian than, for example, the three mentioned Scandinavian languages differ among themselves. Aside from the political consideration of separation, it could be argued, therefore, that Belarusian language broadcasts would be less intelligible in Belarus than Danish language broadcasts would be in Sweden. He pointed out furthermore that not only the Vatican but also Madrid had now initiated the Belarusian language broadcasts.

8. Subject's reaction to your message on the magazine project was very mild. He apparently had forgotten that no reaction from you could be expected until summer, but he did not seem to be disturbed.

9. He hinted that certain funds should have been forthcoming to him for activating some projects he had discussed with you, but stated somewhat philosophically that in the absence of such funds, he would simply be unable to take the desired action. We do not know whether this remark refers to the magazine project and showed no curiosity whatever.

10. Although this may appear obvious, we wish to emphasize once again that subject and not we brought up the aforementioned matters and that we made it absolutely clear to him that we could do no more than provide a channel to the proper people.

11. Subject requested that we pass on to you the number of his checking account in case you wished to make any deposit to it in the future.

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Trade Bank and Trust Company
Eight West Forty-eighth Street
New York, New York

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